

Patent  
801505-1600  
(formerly 254/304)

**In the Claims:**

**Please amend claims 1 and 7 to read as follows:**

1. A controlled, sustained release progressive hydration pharmaceutical composition in the form of a tablet, comprising:

an effective amount of a sex hormone,  
a bioadhesive, water insoluble, water-swellaable cross-linked polycarboxylic polymer, and  
a water soluble polymer,

wherein said composition is formulated in a dry state to deliver, upon administration of said tablet to a mucosal surface of a mammal, said active ingredient to the bloodstream of said mammal.

7. A method of delivering to a mammal a sex hormone, comprising administering said sex hormone via a progressive hydration bioadhesive composition to a mucosal surface of the mammal, wherein said composition is formulated as a dry tablet that includes

(a) said sex hormone,  
(b) a bioadhesive, water insoluble, water swellable cross-linked polycarboxylic polymer, and  
(c) a water-soluble polymer.

**Note:** A marked-up copy of amended claims 1 and 7 is included in Appendix A hereto.